

Appn. No.: 10/706,702
Amendment Dated: February 17, 2004
Reply to Office Action of: January 11, 2005

MAT-8473US

Remarks/Arguments:

The Official Action requires Figures 4, 5A and 5B are to include the legends --Prior Art--. The Figures have been appropriately amended.

Claims 1-4 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Miwa (U.S. 2004/0070963). Miwa was filed on September 30, 2003. The above identified application, however, is based upon Japanese Priority Document 2002-329431 which bears a filing date of November 13, 2002. As Applicants' Priority Document was filed prior to the filing date of the cited reference, the rejection should be withdrawn. A Verified Translation of the Priority Document is enclosed.

This application is in condition for allowance which action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Lawrence E. Ashery, Reg. No. 34,515
Attorney for Applicants

LEA:ds

Attachments: Figures 4, 5A, 5B (2 sheets)
Verified Translation of JP 2002-329431

Dated: February 17, 2005

P.O. Box 980
Valley Forge, PA 19482
(610) 407-0700

The Commissioner for Patents is hereby authorized to charge payment to Deposit Account No. 18-0350 of any fees associated with this communication.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, with sufficient postage, in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on:

February 17, 2005

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Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached sheets of drawings includes changes to Figures 4, 5A and 5B. These sheets replace the original sheets.

Attachment